

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/608,700

Examiner

Tianjie Chen

Applicant(s)

MUNDT ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed on 08/31/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-10,12,15,16,20-25,28 and 30.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |


TIANJIE CHEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

- The previously withdrawn claims 4, 5, 6, 9, and 10 are rejoined for examination.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- With regard to independent claim 1, as the closest reference on record, Rao (US 6,999,282) discloses an air bearing slider including: a slider body including a leading edge, a trailing edge and opposed sides, and including an elongate length between the leading and trailing edges having a leading edge portion, a trailing edge portion, and an intermediate portion proximate to a center axis of the slider body; and a cross width between the opposed sides; and the slider body including a center portion and opposed side portion, a raised bearing surface including a center portion along the leading edge portion of the slider body, and a bearing surface within intermediate portion having an expanded cross width, a stepped bearing surface recessed from the raised bearing surface and the stepped bearing surface having a cross width profile that includes a narrowing cross width dimension that narrows in a direction towards the trailing edge of the slider body from the

intermediate portion; **but fails to show** the center portion along the leading edge portion of the slider body having a gap in a cross width direction within the center portion of the slider body.

- With regard to independent claim 12, as the closest reference on record Rao (US 6,999,282) discloses an air bearing slider including: a slider body including a leading edge, a trailing edge and opposed sides, and including an elongate length between the leading and trailing edges forming a leading edge portion, a trailing edge portion, and an intermediate portion proximate to a center axis of the slider body; and a cross width between the opposed sides; and a raised bearing surface or surfaces elevated above a recessed surface or surfaces including a center portion having a narrow cross width spaced from opposite sides of the slider body along a leading edge portion of the slider body and a raised center portion spaced from opposed sides proximate to the trailing edge of the slider body; **but fails to show** a trench proximate to the center portion of the raised bearing surface or surfaces along the **leading edge portion** of the slider body and a leading edge step and opposed side steps from the trench to the center portion along edge portion of the slider body.
- With regard to independent claim 21, as the closest reference on record, Rao (US 6,999,282) discloses an air bearing slider including: a slider body including a leading edge, a trailing edge and opposed sides, a raised bearing surface including a center portion along the leading edge portion of the

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slider body having a narrow leading edge cross width, and a pad proximate to the trailing edge spaced from opposite sides of the slider body, a stepped bearing surface proximate to the enter pad and recessed from the center pad and elevated from a cavity surface; **but fails to show** raised bearing surface includes side portions extending outwardly from the center portion within an intermediate portion of the slider body.

- With regard to clam independent 20, none of prior art show a slider, which at least having one of the structure described in claim 1, 12, or 21 for performing the function of limiting off nodal pressurization.
- Applicant asserts that the air bearing slider provides lift and roll stability and limit off nodal pressurization (Specification, p. 2).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tianjie Chen whose telephone number is 571-272-7570. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30, Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


TIANJIE CHEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER